

OLC 73-1077

13 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Luncheon with Stewart Alsop

1. On 10 September 1973 I lunched with Mr. Alsop at his invitation at the Metropolitan Club. I had not seen him for some time and was agreeably surprised at how well he looked despite having lost considerable weight in the past couple of years.

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2. We reminisced about old friends- [redacted] et al, and how times have changed for the Agency, in terms of both its priorities and its image. He recognizes that in present circumstances we have no choice but to "go public" to a certain extent with both the press and the politicians, but he feels that in doing so we should move cautiously.

3. He asked a number of questions about Schlesinger's view of, and impact on, the Agency, and Schlesinger's working habits and philosophy of Government generally.

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4. Mr. Alsop wanted to know [redacted] and I said Bill Nelson, explaining briefly Nelson's background. He asked if Nelson's identity was classified and I said I thought it had already appeared in public but if not I would call him back promptly and ask him to treat it accordingly.

5. Mr. Alsop expressed some puzzlement about what he had heard about the reorganization or dissolution of ONE. I explained that Bill Colby's plans in this regard were still tentative, but I understood he was looking for ways to make sure that in the preparation of National Estimates we got the benefit of the best technical and specialized knowledge of the Government, as well as the judgment of mature generalists, and that the Estimates were fully responsive to the needs of the policymakers they were intended to serve.

6. Alsop talked at some length about the energy crisis and what he foresees as the traumatic effect it is likely to have on our domestic politics once its full impact becomes apparent.

7. Alsop asked about our relations with Congress and I explained our procedures in dealing with our Subcommittees, the membership of these Subcommittees, and the major problems which face us in some of the pending and proposed legislation. Alsop remarked that he tried to keep up with key members of the Senate but was not in touch with anybody on the House side.

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